

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SPC-03 DRC-01 /093 W

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R 050510Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1857

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 1140

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: DLAB, OCON, AS

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE:

COMMENT ON ROLE OF AUSTRALIAN MINISTER

OF LABOR, CLYDE CAMERON.

1. CAMERON SPEND WHOLE WEEK IN SYDNEY, ATTENDING EVERY SESSION AND ALL SOCIAL EVENTS; CHAIRING THE OPENING SESSION AND FINAL SESSION, WHICH DRAFTED FINAL COMMUNIQUE. UNUSUAL ALLOCATION OF TIME TO THIS PROJECT BY BUSY MINISTER OF LABOR, EXPLAINED ON LAST DAY OF CONFERENCE, WHEN CAMERON TOLD LABATT IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION, THAT CONFERENCE WAS "OWN IDEA" WHICH HE PERSONALLY SPONSORED WITH PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM AS FAR BACK AS FEBRUARY 1973. THIS WAS BACKGROUND FOR WHITLAM'S INVITATIONS FOR CONFERENCE, ISSUED AT TIME OF SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM IN APRIL THIS YEAR.

2. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, CAMERON WAS GOOD-HUMORED, DIGNIFIED CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN THROUGHOUT. HE WAS FREELY AVAILABLE TO DELEGATES, OBSERVERS AND PRESS,  
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AND LEFT NO DOUBT AT ALL THAT HE REGARDED AUSTRALIA'S

INITIATIVE AS MAJOR ATTEMPT TO SECURE LABOR PARTICIPATION IN HIS COUNTRY'S NEW FOREIGN POLICY. HE TOLD LABATT ON NOVEMBER 1 THAT CONFERENCE WAS "UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS", AND THAT HE DID NOT SHARE OBVIOUS CONCERN OF SECRETARY OF LABOR, IAN SHARP, AND OTHER AUSTRALIANS, THAT AUSTRALIA WAS "STUCK WITH" ADDED ADMINISTRATIVE BURDENS BEYOND WHAT THEY HAD PLANNED. (HE WAS REFERRING HERE TO AUSTRALIA'S PROMISE TO PERFORM BUREAUCRATIC FUNCTIONS FOR FUTURE CONFERENCES).

3. ODDLY FOR SUCH A STAUNCH ANTI-COLONIALIST, CAMERON REFERRED FREQUENTLY TO GEORGE FOGGON, BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE, PARTICULARLY ON MATTERS RELATING TO LANGUAGE IN FINAL COMMUNIQUE. FOGGON WAS PUBLICLY GIVEN TASK OF REWORKING MANY KNOTTED PHRASES, AND IN RESOLVING SOME DIFFICULT ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS; A ROLE WHICH FOGGON ACCEPTED WITH EVIDENT RELISH. CAMERON AT SIGNING SESSION IN AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 1, PAID GLOWING PUBLIC TRIBUTE TO FOGGON, GIVING HIM PRECEDENCE ABOVE ALL OTHERS WHOM HE MENTIONED AS MAKING IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO CONFERENCE SUCCESS. WHILE FOGGON WAS NOT ASKED, AND WHILE GREAT BRITAIN IS NOT MENTIONED IN COMMUNIQUE, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT CONFERENCE WILL LOOK TO THAT COUNTRY FOR CONTINUATION OF WHAT BRITISH TRAINING SCHEMES STILL EXIST IN ASIA-PACIFIC.  
FLUKER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, MEETING CHAIRMAN, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS  
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**Draft Date:** 05 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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